

Shaw 1

MINUTES
SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE
ON
UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT OF LOUISIANA VOTER QUALIFICATION LAWS
January 28, 1959

SPONSORING GROUPS: The Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee
The State Board of Registration

The Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee and the Director of the State Board of Registration held a joint conference with public officials of the Seventh Congressional District on January 28, 1959, at Lake Charles, Louisiana, in Court Room A of the Annex of the Calcasieu Parish Courthouse. The meeting was held for the purpose of formulating plans to bring about uniform enforcement of the voter qualification laws of the State of Louisiana.

The following were recorded as present:

Committee Members: Chairman W. M. Rainach; Secretary Ford E. Stinson; Senators Louis H. Folse, H. W. Jones, B. R. Patton; Representative John S. Garrett.

Committee Counsel: W. M. Shaw

(Absent: Senator Alvin T. Stumpf, and Representatives E. W. Gravolet, Jr., Carroll L. Dupont, and L. D. Napper.)

Director, State Board of Registration: Douglas Fowler; Secretary to Mr. Fowler, Mrs. Beatrice R. Harris.

Assistant Attorney General: Edward M. Carmouche, representing Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion.

Registrars of Voters: Seventh Congressional District.

M. J. Judice, Acadia Parish

Mrs. Marjorie L. Breaux, Deputy Registrar, Acadia Parish

Mrs. Hazel J. Nixon, Deputy Registrar, Allen Parish,
representing Villery Montou.

Mrs. Lillieon M. Cutrer, Calcasieu Parish

Mrs. Ursula Burnett, Beauregard Parish

Miss Wynona Welch, Cameron Parish

Otis Fontenot, Evangeline Parish

Mrs. Bertha Marcantel, Jefferson Davis Parish

Miss Ruby C. Ryder, St. Landry Parish

District Attorneys: Bernard H. Marcantel, Allen & Jefferson Davis; Edward Shaheen, Calcasieu & Cameron, was in and out of the meeting but his representative, Fred Selby, was present all time.

(Absent: Bertrand D. DeBlanc, Acadia Parish; Peter S. Anderson, Beauregard Parish; J. Y. Fontenot, St. Landry Parish; L. O. Fusilier, Evangeline Parish.

Sheriffs:

Mr. Macilly representing Henry A. Reid, Jr., Calcasieu Parish.

Lee Aucoin representing Frank Cazan Fontenot, Evangeline Parish.

(Absent: Walter V. Larcade, Acadia Parish; Ralph L. Thompson, Allen Parish; Paul H. Stark, Beauregard Parish; O. B. Carter, Cameron Parish; Zenor Buller, Jefferson Davis Parish; D. J. Doucet, St. Landry Parish.)

Police Jury Presidents:

Marcus Kirk representing M. W. Scanlon, Acadia Parish
H. M. Deshotels representing Dan W. Wilson, Evangeline Parish
A. B. Mount, President, State Association of Police Juries,
Calcasieu Parish.

(Absent: A. E. Sigler, Allen Parish; T. Coleman, Beauregard Parish;
Eraste Hebert, Cameron Parish; Glenn I. Golden,
Jefferson Davis; Johnnie A. Haas, St. Landry Parish.

Others:

P. O. White, Lake Charles Citizens' Council
William R. Tete, Attorney, Lake Charles, Louisiana
William Morgan, Lake Charles, Louisiana
Rex Smelser, Lake Charles, Louisiana
Donald Soileau, Mamou, Louisiana
Gene Hughes, Reporter for the American Press
Mr. Kohnke, Reporter for the American Press

Chairman Rainach opened the meeting at 10:30 A.M. In his opening remarks, he stated that later in the meeting he would present the historical background to the program of voter qualification law enforcement, tracing it from the Reconstruction Era to the present date. He said he intended to outline the part the program will play in maintaining the State's separate school system and other domestic institutions and powers.

Registration Director Douglas Fowler then addressed the group briefly, pledging the full cooperation of his office to the proposed program of voter qualification law enforcement in Louisiana, and listing the following six points of legislation which he feels should be enacted in order to improve the operation of his office and those of the registrars:

1. Office hours of the registrars should be made to conform with present day customs as well as customs of the respective parishes.
2. Adequate provisions should be made for pay of the registrars and the Director of Registration.
3. Salaries should be paid from a centralized office to facilitate deductions, etc. so that registrars may be paid by one check as is any other State employee.
4. Registrars' offices and the Director of Registration should be removed from the political arena, so that the state law can be enforced without political interference.
5. Each parish should have a deputy registrar authorized by law so that in cases of emergencies, such as some parishes have experienced, someone would be legally authorized and qualified to take over the office.
6. A need for tolerance and understanding of the problems of our registrars by the public is necessary for proper administration of their offices.

Upon being introduced, Assistant Attorney General Edward M. Carmouche announced that he was present by request of Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion and that he had been instructed to appear in behalf of the Attorney General's office and offer the full facilities of that office to the Seventh District officials in connection with the execution of their responsibilities in the field of voter registration law enforcement.

Mr. Carmouche called the registrars' attention to passage of a law in the 1958 General Session of the Louisiana Legislature directing the Attorney General to advise and defend the registrars in matters involving federal authority, and then read from three opinions rendered by the Attorney General in which he pointed up the responsibility of his office to render all possible legal aid to registrars and others involved in the enforcement of statutes pertaining to voter law enforcement, and in which clarification of statutes affecting voter registration laws was made.

At this point in reply to a question by Mr. A. B. Mount, President of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, Mr. Douglas Fowler said: "I would readily agree that the State should continue its present support of the operation cost of the registrars' offices, but the entire supervision should be in the hands of the police juries. Something needs to be done and I believe in home rule. The juries are closer to the problems; they should make policy decisions, with only a power of review being vested in the State."

Mr. Rainach then summarized briefly the opinions presented by Mr. Carmouche:

"1) The Campbell and Campbell opinion says that federal officials who come into your office have a right under the laws of the State of Louisiana to examine your voter rolls provided they are registered voters of the State of Louisiana. Such an examination must not interfere with the conduct of your office, and the time permitted for the examination may be fixed at your discretion. If any official or person, however, wishes to photostat your records, he must first secure the signatures of 25 registered voters of the State on a petition to you before you permit him to do so.

"2) Under the Joint Legislative Committee opinion discussed by Mr. Carmouche, the registrar has, under the present law, the right to examine applicants for registration one at a time privately if he thinks the situation requires such in order to properly determine the applicant's qualifications. Only the registrar has the power to determine an applicant's qualifications.

"3) The Bushnell opinion says that police juries have no authority to direct that registrars use the sample constitutional tests card which we have distributed to you here today. They have the right, however, to adopt resolutions directed to their registrars, recommending that they use them, and such recommendations carry great weight, in view of the fact that the police juries appoint registrars, provide their quarters, and in many other ways affect the operations of their offices."

Mr. Rainach then proceeded to discuss the background for the reasons prompting the Committee to hold the various Congressional District meetings and initiate the program for enforcement of voter qualification laws. He traced the origin of voter qualification laws during the Reconstruction Era, which closely parallels our own period, and discussed the part the Committee's program would play in maintaining the State's separate school system and other domestic institutions and powers, emphasizing the necessity for close coordination between all public officials, particularly the registrars of the State, and the citizens themselves. Mr. Rainach used a number of Reconstruction, Communist, N.A.A.C.P., statistical and other exhibits to illustrate and document the following points:

- P
1. Registrars have become critically important officials and they should be helped by other public officials, as well as the general public, since they have become the focal point of the solution to our problems.
 2. According to Communist, NAACP, and Negro publications, the Negro bloc vote is the key objective in the political fight for the balance of power on the national scene. U.S. News and World Report concurs and says the Negro holds 4,000,000 votes throughout the United States.
 3. The fight for school integration in the South has shifted from the courts to the political arena, from legal moves to a fight for the votes of Negro masses who must be fully registered before their full political power can be brought to bear.
 4. Our chief enemy, who is creating the struggle and causing strife between the races, is the Communist Party.
 5. During the Reconstruction Period in 1868, Negroes were voted into state and local offices through the power of Negro ballots; and integrated schools were established in Louisiana under a Reconstructed Constitution adopted by the Negro vote.
 6. The Negro population in Louisiana, now 32%, could very easily shift the balance of Louisiana political power in the direction that it shifted during the Reconstruction Era, if Negroes are permitted to register without regard to qualifications provided by law.
 7. In 1897, our forefathers in Louisiana started a program of voter qualification law enforcement, knowing that such a program would provide the solution to their problems.
 8. Louisiana is now operating under the Constitution of 1921, and the voter qualification laws contained in our present Constitution, which were handed down to it from the Constitution of 1898, are adequate to solve our present problems, if they are uniformly enforced without distinctions as to persons.

In closing, Mr. Radnack stated, "We will prove that every parish must eventually enforce our voter registration laws. The entire emphasis in the integration struggle is shifting to the field of voter qualification enforcement," he said, "and the program we are beginning here today will prove the solution to our problems, not only in this section of our country, but for the entire United States. Our Committee might reduce this entire program to these questions: What is the federal position? What is the State's position? What is YOUR position? And what shall we do?"

Committee Counsel W. M. Shaw was introduced at this point, and requested to detail to those present the meaning of federal constitutional and statutory provisions affecting the administration of state voter qualification laws and jurisprudence relative thereto. Mr. Shaw made the following points:

1. Voting is not a right but a privilege. This privilege is provided by the state and not the federal government, whose power is only negative. The federal constitution bans discrimination as to sex, race, color, or previous condition of servitude, and criminal acts of violence in connection with such discrimination, but it does not provide for any federal registration or voting laws, rules or regulations whatever.

2. The federal government has adopted a "Civil Rights" Act, which provides for a trial without jury in criminal contempt of court cases. This and other provisions of the Act are clearly unconstitutional, and it is believed they will be so held when tested.

Some powers of the Civil Rights Commission are:

- A. The Commission may take testimony of a witness behind closed doors and may release only such testimony, or portion of such testimony, as the commission desires. The witness from whom such testimony was taken may not release his testimony, or any portion of such testimony in answer to the release of that testimony by the chairman, under penalty of contempt of the Commission. The witness may not have a transcript of his own testimony without permission of the Commission. These provisions are clearly unconstitutional.
 - B. By law, the Civil Rights commission must have on file a sworn complaint before the Commission can legally investigate an area. Anyone being investigated by the Commission should exercise his right to a copy of the affidavit.
 - C. As of June 15, 1958, no written complaints had been registered with the Commission.
 - D. The Commission was created for a two-year period, which has almost elapsed. The Commission must go before the present Congress and have its time extended if it is to remain in power. This is evidently the purpose of its Alabama investigation, which is before the courts in that state. Its investigations there give the Commission a reason for having its time extended.
3. The Civil Rights Commission can cause no concern for registrars if they adhere strictly to the laws now on our books and do not discriminate in the administration of the laws. There is no need for discrimination on the part of the registrars in order to substantially eliminate the bloc vote - since nature has adequately done this for us.
 4. Registrars do not have to worry about the F.B.I., as well as agents of the Civil Rights Commission. They do not have to answer questions put to them by either. If any federal official or employee comes into a registrar's office, the registrar should ask that he put any request in writing and inform him that he will take the written request under advisement. The registrar should then notify the Attorney General, the Director of the Board of Registration, the Joint Legislative Committee, his police jury president and his district attorney. F.B.I. Agents usually come in pairs to see a registrar and one takes notes while the other asks questions. In that manner, they have something to back up their work, while the registrar does not unless he follows the same procedure or requires that everything be placed in writing. In case of verbal interviews, the F.B.I. Agent should not be depended upon to give a completely truthful account of the interview.
 5. Where federal authority is involved, the Attorney General is now required to advise and defend registrars, as provided by an Act of the 1958 General Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

General Counsel Shaw, at the request of Chairman Rainach, next discussed the State's powers in the field of voter registration. "To the extent that we enforce all our laws fully and efficiently, is the extent to which we will have a government of which we can be proud," Mr. Shaw told his audience.

Mr. Shaw instructed the registrars on the contents and meaning of the laws providing for qualifications of voters. A booklet written by Mr. Shaw and Senator Rainach entitled Voter Qualification Laws in Louisiana was given to each person attending the meeting and Mr. Shaw informed the group that voter registration laws were being honored more in the breach than in the observance.

Points of qualifications given by Mr. Shaw were:

1. Personal appearance by the applicant is necessary for registration.
2. Identification of person and proof of residence is required if the applicant is not known personally by the registrar. The registrar may require that the person have two registered voters of the person's precinct appear to identify him if the registrar is not satisfied with the person's own identification. This procedure is particularly applicable to Negroes, since it is difficult for most registrars, who are white, to differentiate between persons of the Negro race, determine age, etc.
3. The registrar is advised to check over his rolls periodically, since many registrants may have moved or designated an incorrect ward or precinct for his place of residence, and other irregularities may be found in connection with the registration of various applicants.
4. Ability to Read and Write:
 - A. The law provides that an applicant must fill out his card with no help from anyone, including the registrar, or reference to any memorandum whatsoever. According to an opinion from the Attorney General, a registrar may designate his own administrative procedure, and accordingly may exclude all but one applicant at a time from his office in order to adequately and uniformly test the applicant's qualifications. As a matter of precaution, it is always best to avoid having too many people in the office at one time.
 - B. The number of times an applicant who fails to qualify may re-apply is a practical matter for the registrar himself to determine. There are no legal minimum or maximum limits provided.
5. Illiteracy, disability, inability to read and write the English language.
 - A. There is a provision under the law whereby an illiterate may register. This provision is made for illiterates of exceptional ability. The law does not intend to permit all illiterates to register.
 - B. An illiterate applicant must present two witnesses from the applicant's own precinct who shall sign an affidavit attesting to the truth of the applicant's statements as to his illiteracy.
 - C. The above-named applicants, as well as all others, must be of good character and must be able to interpret any clause from the Constitution of Louisiana or the United States.
6. The key to the solution of our whole problem lies in interpretation of the Constitution -- our best test of intelligence. In applying this test, the registrars were advised to use a set of 24 model cards distributed to all present.
 - A. The registrar should fan the cards out and let each applicant choose his own card at random so that there will be no chance of discrimination. Each card lists three questions on the Constitution of Louisiana or the United States. Each test must be administered impartially.

- B. The applicant must give a reasonable interpretation of the specific clause of the constitution-not a legal interpretation in which the citation of court cases, etc., would be required. The registrar uses his own discretion in determining whether or not the applicant meets the constitutional test.
- C. The federal government gives similar constitutional tests to immigrants who apply for citizenship in the United States.
- D. Constitutional tests are a test of native intelligence and not "book learning." Experience teaches that most of our white people have this native intelligence, while most Negroes do not.
- E. Upholding the laws of our state will eliminate most local pressures which come to bear upon the registrar. Officials who try to impose their own will upon the registrar in violation to state law will soon be afraid to make such attempts.
- F. The people themselves will support the registrars, once they understand what our program is. In fact, they will demand that the constitution tests be given.
- G. Procedures in registering voters must be kept uniform throughout the state. They must be the same in Claiborne as in Orleans.
7. Good character of the applicant must be established. Parents of illegitimate children are ineligible for registration.
 - A. The Welfare Department is now reviewing its policies with regard to releasing information to officials for the purpose of establishing the character of parents of illegitimate children on welfare rolls who also are applicants for voter registration.
8. The following persons are ineligible for registration:
 - A. Any person confined in a public prison. Such persons may be removed from the rolls. After the person is released from public prison, he may apply for re-registration if he so desires. An established policy should be provided by the state for some official, such as the clerk of court, to notify registrars of persons placed in public prisons.
 - B. Inmates of charitable homes. The Soldiers' Home and the United States Marine Hospital at Carville are excepted from this clause.
 - C. All interdicted persons.
 - D. All notoriously insane persons.
 - E. Deserters from military service.
 - F. Those dishonorably discharged from military service.
9. On the back of each of the 24 constitutional test cards is a suggested resolution which may be passed by the policy jury of the respective parish, which has the effect of giving support to the registrar. The passage of this resolution is advised, but its passage is not necessary for the registrar to put the constitutional tests into effect. Past experience has shown that the people want the police juries to pass this resolution, however.
10. The registrar should not tell an applicant the ward or precinct in which the applicant resides. Remedies are:
 - A. The registrar may hang a precinct map in his office to which the applicant may refer.
 - B. Other officials may help the applicant before registration outside the registrar's office if they so desire.

11. It is advisable to notify the parish newspapers of changes in registration policy within the parish so that the public may be advised of the changes. The papers should also notify the public to come in early and register, since constitutional tests will take more time for each person than the previous policy. The public should be advised that they should avoid last minute rush periods, which might possibly prevent some applicants from registering at all.
12. Registration laws were put on the books for the purpose of screening they were meant to keep unqualified people off the rolls, not for putting such people on.

The following questions from the floor were answered by Mr. Shaw and Senator Rainach at this time:

Question: "Is the registrar the only one who judges the test?"

Answer: "The registrar is the only one who can say an applicant has passed a test."

Mr. Ancoine: "If the registrar becomes too lenient, who will be in position to see that he does enforce these laws?"

Answer: "Voter qualification laws are laws of the State of Louisiana. There are stiff penalties for violation of the laws. Violations may be prosecuted by the district attorney or, in the event he fails, by the Attorney General."

Question: "Does your Committee have any authority to enforce the law?"

Mr. Rainach: "No. Our primary objective is to make investigations and recommend legislation. In addition, we are charged with the responsibility of leading the fight against the federal government and private groups who are encroaching upon our constitutional right to run our own state government."

Mrs. Ryder: "I think a Committee of your kind can be of great help to us. We have done wrong, but we can't throw it off by ourselves. Our people will not allow it. I mean those who have been registered for thirty years. How can you remove them from the rolls?" (Meaning those not qualified)

Answer: "The enforcement of voter qualification laws in the future would, of course, apply only to new registrants. It would not affect unqualified people already registered unless their fitness as qualified voters were challenged under one of the three methods provided by law."

At this point, Mr. Shaw stated that in reference to the Bushnell opinion read by Mr. Carmouche relative to the use of constitutional test cards and the adoption of a resolution by the police juries recommending their use by registrars that Attorney General Gremillion based his opinion upon two misleading questions put to him. He stated that the Attorney General had authorized him to say that there would be a clarification made of the opinion.

"The second thing to be clarified," Mr. Shaw said, "was the question of removal from the rolls of people actually confined in public prison. Persons imprisoned (this includes parish jails), should be removed from the rolls while in prison. They should be notified of their removal from the rolls after they are free, and advised that they may apply for re-registration, unless they have been convicted of a felony and served a prison term for the same, in which case they lose their franchise."

Mr. Fowler requested registrars to adhere to the practice of accepting only as many challenges to voters as may be processed within the day, due to the law which requires that all challenges be processed within 48 hours.

He cited the Ouachita Parish case, in which approximately 8,000 challenges were made almost simultaneously, and told of how it became impossible to meet the legal requirements with reference to processing them within the time limit allowed. He stated he felt sure that challengers would refrain from offering a greater number of challenges than the registrar could process within the time limit, if the registrar requested cooperation in this regard.

Chairman Rainach discussed the statistical sheets distributed which shows the number of registered voters by congressional districts and by race.

Following an announcement that the district meetings will be followed up by visits to individual parishes by the Committee along with the Director of the Board of Registration, as developments require, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Ford E. Stinson, Secretary

W. M. Rainach, Chairman

MINUTES
EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE
ON
UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT OF LOUISIANA VOTER QUALIFICATION LAWS
January 15, 1959

SPONSORING GROUPS: The Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee
The State Board of Registration

The Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee and the Director of the State Board of Registration held a joint conference with public officials of the Eighth Congressional District on January 15, 1959, at Alexandria, Louisiana, in the Agricultural Auditorium of the Rapides Parish Courthouse. The meeting was held for the purpose of formulating plans to bring about a uniform enforcement of the voter qualification laws of the State of Louisiana.

The following were recorded as present:

Committee Members: Chairman W. M. Rainach; Secretary Ford E. Stinson; Senators Louis E. Folse, H. W. Jones, B. R. Patton; Representatives John S. Garrett, L. D. Napper.

Committee Counsel: W. M. Shaw

(Absent: Senator Alvin T. Stumpf; and Representatives E. W. Gravolet, and Carroll L. Dupont.)

Director, State Board of Registration: Douglas Fowler

Public Officials and others: John R. Hunter, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, State of Louisiana, representing Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion; Mrs. Lottie Bloch, Secretary for the Registrars of Voters Association; Leo Bloch, Sec.-Mangr. of Registrars of Voters Retirement System; Arthur Matthews, Reporter, Daily Town Talk; David Kent, Reporter, Shreveport Journal; Mary Petrie, Reporter, Shreveport Journal; James Brister, District Supervisor, Voting Machine Department; and Bill Bailey, Reporter, Daily Town Talk.

Registrars of Voters, Eighth Congressional District:

Mrs. Eva McDonald, Sabine Parish
J. S. Adams, Natchitoches Parish
Mrs. Mary C. Flournoy, Winn Parish
Mrs. Maxine Mosely, Grant Parish
J. S. Allen, LaSalle Parish - and Mrs. Allen
C. L. Bushnell, Rapides Parish - and Mrs. Bushnell
Mrs. Daigre, Deputy Registrar - Rapides Parish
Willie Thevenot, Avoyelles Parish

(Absent: Jewell Britt, Vernon Parish)

District Attorneys: Lester Hughes, 10th Judicial District (Red River & Natchitoches Parishes), Sam L. Wells, 8th Judicial District (Grant & Winn Parishes), and Jean Pharis, 9th Judicial District (Rapides Parish).

(Absent: Fred L. Jackson, State Assn. President of DAs. & District Attorney for 2nd Judicial District (Jackson Parish).
Reuel Boone, 11th Judicial District (DeSoto & Sabine).
C. C. Minard, 28th Judicial District (Caldwell Parish).
P. S. Anderson, 30 Judicial District (Beauregard & Vernon).
C. A. Riddle, Jr., 12th Judicial District (Avoyelles Parish)

Sheriffs:

R. S. Jordan, Winn Parish
J. Wilson Smith, Grant Parish
J. C. Pyle, Representative of D. Floyd, LaSalle Parish
Noel Tipton, Deputy Sheriff representing T. M. Phillips, Sabine Parish - and Mrs. Tipton

(Sheriffs Absent:

Earl Morris, Matchitoches Parish
John O. Craft, Vernon Parish
Grady L. Kelly, Jr., Rapides Parish
F. O. Didier, Jr., Avoyelles Parish
W. E. Waggoner, President, State Association of Sheriffs)

Police Jury Presidents:

W. P. Williams, Secretary, Grant Parish
Adrian Land, Police Jury Member, Matchitoches Parish
B. E. Lashley, Winn Parish

(Absent:

Claude R. Carter, Sabine Parish
Lloyd Thompson, LaSalle Parish
R. G. Deason, Vernon Parish
Jesse Boyd, Rapides Parish
Elson Gremillion, Avoyelles Parish)

The meeting was called to order by Senator Rainach, Chairman of the Committee, and after a brief welcome to the group, he introduced Mr. Douglas Fowler, Director of the Board of Registration.

Mr. Fowler addressed the meeting and brought out the following points:

1. Office hours of the registrars should be made to conform with present-day customs as well as customs of the respective parishes.
2. Salaries should be paid from a centralized office to facilitate deductions, etc. so that registrars may be paid as any other State employee.
3. Each parish should have a deputy registrar authorized by law so that in cases of emergencies, such as some parishes have experienced, someone would be legally authorized and qualified to take over the office.
4. A need for tolerance and understanding of the problems of our registrars by the public is necessary for proper administration of their offices.

At this time the roll was called by Mrs. Beatrice R. Harris.

Mr. John R. Hunter, Jr. addressed the conference on behalf of the Attorney General and pledged the cooperation of his office for their advice and defense in matters involving the federal government. He pointed out that under state law, registrars do not have to permit F.B.I. agents to examine their records at all, unless they are registered voters of the State of Louisiana, a right given to them by the state and not by the federal government.

Senator Rainach addressed the press and asked that they publish nothing until they cleared their stories with the Committee. He then addressed the meeting as a whole and presented the following points:

1. Registrars have become critically important officials and they should be helped by other public officials, as well as the general public, since they have become the focal point of the solution to our problems.
2. According to Communist, NAACP, and Negro publications, the Negro bloc vote is the key objective in the political fight for the balance of power on the national scene. U.S. News and World Report concurs and says the Negro holds 4,000,000 votes throughout the United States.
3. The fight for school integration in the South has shifted from the courts to the political arena, from legal moves to a fight for the votes of Negro masses who must be fully registered before their full political power can be brought to bear.
4. Our chief enemy, who is creating the struggle and causing strife between the races, is the Communist Party.
5. During the Reconstruction Period in 1863, Negroes were voted into state and local offices through the power of Negro ballots, and integrated schools were established in Louisiana under a Reconstructed Constitution adopted by the Negro vote.
6. The Negro population in Louisiana, now 32%, could very easily shift the balance of Louisiana political power in the direction that it shifted during the Reconstruction Era, if Negroes are permitted to register without regard to qualifications provided by law.
7. In 1897, our fore-fathers in Louisiana started a program of voter qualification law enforcement, knowing that such a program would provide the solution to their problems.
8. Louisiana is now operating under the Constitution of 1921, and the voter qualification laws contained in our present Constitution, which were handed down to it from the Constitution of 1898, are adequate to solve our present problems, if they are uniformly enforced without distinctions as to persons.

The meeting was turned over to General Counsel W. M. Shaw, who gave the following instructions to the group.

1. Voting is not a right but a privilege. This privilege is provided by the state and not the federal government, whose power is only negative. The federal constitution bans discrimination as to sex, race, color, or previous condition of servitude, and criminal acts of violence in connection with such discrimination, but it does not provide for any federal registration or voting laws, rules or regulations whatever.
2. The federal government has adopted a "Civil Rights" Act, which provides for a trial without jury in criminal contempt of court cases. This and other provisions of the Act are clearly unconstitutional, and it is believed they will be so held when tested.

Some powers of the Civil Rights Commission are:

- A. The Commission may take testimony of a witness behind closed doors and may release only such testimony, or portion of such testimony, as the commission desires. The witness from whom such testimony was taken may not release his testimony, or any portion of such testimony in answer to the release of that testimony by the chairman, under penalty of contempt of the Commission. The witness may not have a transcript of his own testimony without permission of the Commission. These provisions are clearly unconstitutional.

- B. By law, the Civil Rights Commission must have on file a sworn complaint before the Commission can legally investigate an area. Anyone being investigated by the Commission should exercise his right to a copy of the affidavit.
 - C. As of June 15, 1958, no written complaints had been registered with the Commission.
 - D. The Commission was created for a two-year period, which has almost elapsed. The Commission must go before the present Congress and have its time extended if it is to remain in power. This is evidently the purpose of its Alabama investigation, which is before the courts in that state. Its investigations there give the Commission a reason for having its time extended.
3. The Civil Rights Commission can cause no concern for registrars if they adhere strictly to the laws now on our books and do not discriminate in the administration of the laws. There is no need for discrimination on the part of the registrars in order to substantially eliminate the bloc vote - since nature has adequately done this for us.
 4. Registrars do not have to worry about the F.B.I., as well as agents of the Civil Rights Commission. They do not have to answer questions put to them by either. If any federal official or employee comes into a registrar's office, the registrar should ask that he put any request in writing and inform him that he will make the written request under advisement. The registrar should then notify the Attorney General, the Director of the Board of Registration, the Joint Legislative Committee, his police jury president and his district attorney. F.B.I. Agents usually come in pairs to see a registrar and one takes notes while the other asks questions. In that manner, they have something to back up their work, while the registrar does not unless he follows the same procedure or requires that everything be placed in writing. In case of verbal interviews, the F.B.I. Agent should not be depended upon to give a completely truthful account of the interview.
 5. Where federal authority is involved, the Attorney General is now required to advise and defend registrars, as provided by an Act of the 1958 General Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Mr. Shaw then instructed the registrars on the contents and meanings of the laws providing for qualifications of voters. A booklet written by Mr. Shaw and Senator Rainach entitled Voter Qualification Laws in Louisiana was given to each person attending the meeting and Mr. Shaw informed the group that voter registration laws were being honored more in the breach than in the observance.

Points of qualifications given by Mr. Shaw were:

1. Personal appearance by the applicant is necessary for registration.
2. Identification of person and proof of residence is required if the applicant is not known personally by the registrar. The registrar may require that the person have two registered voters of the person's precinct appear to identify him if the registrar is not satisfied with the person's own identification. This procedure is particularly applicable to Negroes, since it is difficult for most registrars, who are white, to differentiate between persons of the Negro race, determine their age, etc.

3. The registrar is advised to check over his rolls periodically, since many registrants may have moved or designated an incorrect ward or precinct for his place of residence, and other irregularities may be found in connection with the registration of various applicants.
4. Ability to Read and Write:
 - A. The law provides that an applicant must fill out his card with no help from anyone, including the registrar, or reference to any memorandum whatsoever. According to an opinion from the Attorney General, a registrar may designate his own administrative procedure, and accordingly may exclude all but one applicant at a time from his office in order to adequately and uniformly test the applicants' qualifications. As a matter of precaution, it is always best to avoid having too many people in the office at one time.
 - B. The number of times an applicant who fails to qualify may re-apply is a practical matter for the registrar himself to determine. There are no legal minimum or maximum limits provided.
5. Illiteracy, disability, inability to read and write the English language:
 - A. There is a provision under the law whereby an illiterate may register. This provision is made for illiterates of exceptional ability. The law does not intend to permit all illiterates to register.
 - B. An illiterate applicant must present two witnesses from the applicant's own precinct who shall sign an affidavit attesting to the truth of the applicant's statements as to his illiteracy.
 - C. The above-named applicants, as well as all others, must be of good character and must be able to interpret any clause from the Constitution of Louisiana or the United States.
6. The key to the solution of our whole problem lies in interpretation of the Constitution -- our best test of intelligence. In applying this test, the registrars were advised to use a set of 24 model cards distributed to all precincts.
 - A. The registrar should fan the cards out and let each applicant choose his own card at random so that there will be no chance of discrimination. Each card lists three questions on the Constitution of Louisiana or the United States. Each test must be administered impartially.
 - B. The applicant must give a reasonable interpretation of the specific clause of the constitution -- not a legal interpretation in which the citation of court cases, etc., would be required. The registrar uses his own discretion in determining whether or not the applicant meets the constitutional test.
 - C. The federal government gives similar constitutional tests to immigrants who apply for citizenship in the United States.
 - D. Constitutional tests are a test of native intelligence and not "book learning." Experience teaches that most of our white people have this native intelligence, while most Negroes do not.

- E. Upholding the laws of our state will eliminate most local pressures which come to bear upon the registrar. Officials who try to impose their own will upon the registrar in violation of state law will soon be afraid to make such attempts.
 - F. The people themselves will support the registrars, once they understand what our program is. In fact, they will demand that the constitutional tests be given.
 - G. Procedures in registering voters must be kept uniform throughout the state. They must be the same in Claiborne as in Orleans.
7. Good character of the applicant must be established. Parents of illegitimate children are ineligible for registration.
- A. The Welfare Department is now reviewing its policies with regard to releasing information to officials for the purpose of establishing the character of parents of illegitimate children on welfare rolls who also are applicants for voter registration.
8. The following persons are ineligible for registration:
- A. Any person confined in a public prison. Such persons may be removed from the rolls. When the person is released from public prison, he may apply for re-registration if he so desires. An established policy should be provided by the state for some official, such as the clerk of court, to notify registrars of persons placed in public prisons.
 - B. Inmates of charitable homes. The Soldiers' Home and the United States Marine Hospital at Mobile are excepted from this clause.
 - C. All interdicted persons.
 - D. All notoriously insane persons.
 - E. Deserters from military service.
 - F. Those dishonorably discharged from military service.
9. On the back of each of the 24 constitutional test cards is a suggested resolution which may be passed by the policy jury of the respective parish, which has the effect of giving support to the registrar. The passage of this resolution is advised, but its passage is not necessary for the registrar to put the constitutional tests into effect. Past experience has shown that the people want the police juries to pass this resolution, however.
10. The registrar should not tell an applicant the ward or precinct in which the applicant resides. Remedies are:
- A. The registrar may hang a precinct map in his office to which the applicant may refer.
 - B. Other officials may help the applicant before registration outside the registrar's office if they so desire.

11. It is advisable to notify the parish newspapers of changes in registration policy within the parish so that the public may be advised of the changes. The papers should also notify the public to come in early and register, since constitutional tests will take more time for each person than the previous policy. The public should be advised that they should avoid last minute rush periods, which might possibly prevent some applicants from registering at all.
12. Registration laws were put on the books for the purpose of screening; they were meant to keep unqualified people off the rolls, not for putting such people on.

There were questions from the floor at this time. These questions were answered by Mr. Shaw and Senator Rainach.

The meeting closed with the announcement that the district meetings will be followed up by visits to individual parishes by the Committee along with the Director of the Board of Registration, as developments require.

Ford E. Stinson, Secretary

W. M. Rainach, Chairman

MINUTES
FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE
ON
ENFORCEMENT OF LOUISIANA VOTER QUALIFICATION LAWS
December 17, 1958

SPONSORING GROUPS: The Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee
The State Board of Registration

The Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee and the Director of the State Board of Registration held a joint conference with public officials of the Fourth Congressional District on December 17, 1958, at Shreveport, Louisiana, in the Police Jury Room of the Caddo Parish Courthouse. The meeting was held for the purpose of formulating plans to bring about a uniform enforcement of the voter qualification laws of the State of Louisiana.

The following were recorded as present:

Committee Members: Chairman W. M. Rainach, Vice-Chairman E. W. Gravolet, Jr., Secretary Ford E. Stinson; Senators B. R. Patton and H. W. Jones; Representatives L. D. Napper and John S. Garrett.

Committee Counsel: W. M. Shaw

(Absent: Senators Louis E. Folse and Alvin T. Stumpf; and Representative Carrol L. Dupont)

Director, State Board of Registration: Douglas Fowler

Public Officials and others:

Ferdinand Cashio, Assistant Attorney General, State of Louisiana, representing Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion, and also representing Assistant Attorney General George Ponder who was unable to attend the meeting due to plane delays.

Louis Knop, Jr., Registrar of Voters, Orleans Parish, and President of the State Association of Registrars of Voters.

Charles Rodriguez, Assistant to Mr. Knop.

Jodie R. Smith, Registrar of Voters, East Baton Rouge Parish.

Floyd Reed, legal adviser to the State Association of Registrars of Voters.

Mrs. Harris, secretary to Director Fowler

C. L. Bushnell, Vice-President of the State Association of Registrars of Voters and Registrar for the Parish of Rapides.

Aswell Conly, Coushatta, President, Citizens' Council of Red River Parish.

Arthur Gayle, Secretary, Shreveport Citizens' Council

Mrs. Frances P. Hims, Committee Secretary, Homer.

T. B. McKeithen, Director of Organization, Association of Citizens' Councils, Homer.

A. B. Culpepper, Deputy Sheriff, Arcadia

Registrars of Voters, Fourth Congressional District

Mrs. A. B. Culpepper, Bienville Parish

Mrs. Mary K. Bryce, Bossier

U. Charles Mitchell, Caddo

Mrs. L. L. Linton, Claiborne

J. A. H. Slawson, De Soto

J. Walton Crawford, Red River

Attorney John T. Campbell, representing Mrs. Winnice Clement who was absent due to illness, Webster Parish

Sheriffs, Fourth Congressional District

H. N. Davis, Bienville
W. E. Waggoner, Bossier (President, State Association of Sheriffs)
J. H. Flournoy, Caddo
R. W. Wasson, Claiborne
Kirwen Brown, Red River
J. D. Batton, Webster
Rev. A. E. Brown, Deputy Sheriff and President of Citizens' Council of Minden, Webster Parish.

(Sheriffs Absent, H. T. Burgess, De Soto)

Police Jury Presidents, Fourth Congressional District:

J. H. Poole, Bienville
W. H. Mercer, Bossier
Charles L. Horne, Jr., Caddo
J. C. English, Claiborne
O. H. Jordan, Jr., De Soto
Joseph F. Carr, representing President Ruffin Wilson, Red River Parish who was absent due to pressure of jury business.
Leland G. Hims, Webster

District Attorneys, Fourth Congressional District

Edwin L. Blewer, 1st Judicial District (Caddo Parish)
Fred L. Jackson, 2nd Judicial District, Bienville and Claiborne Parishes, and President, State Association of District Attorneys.
L. H. Padgett, Jr. 26th Judicial District (Bossier and Webster Parishes))

District Attorneys Absent:

J. Reuel Boone, 11th Judicial District (De Soto and Sabine Parishes)
Lester Hughes, 10th Judicial District (Natchitoches and Red River Parishes)

Mr. Cashio conveyed greetings from the Attorney General, Honorable Jack P. F. Gremillion, and stated that Attorney General Gremillion pledged the full and complete cooperation of his office to the proposed program of voter qualification law enforcement in Louisiana.

Registration Director Fowler addressed the group, pledging the full cooperation of his office to the proposed program of voter qualification law enforcement in Louisiana, and listing the following four points of legislation which he feels should be enacted in order to improve the operations of his office and those of the registrars:

1) Change working hours of registrars which are presently from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., to make them conform to the hours most generally adhered to by other public offices (8-12: 1-5).

2) Change the present system whereby registrars are paid one-half their salaries by the parish police juries and the other half by the State. Mr. Fowler pointed up the difficulties resulting from such a system, particularly with reference to income tax withholdings. He recommended that a central paying system be adopted so that the registrars' incomes would be received from one source. Mr. Fowler suggested the possibility of creating a department within the Board of Registration office for this purpose, if it were considered to be feasible.

3) Remove the Board of Registration by law from politics. He stated that the Board is set up at present on the same basic principles adopted in 1898 when the position was first created, and that many efficient registrars were lost due to political pressures being brought to bear, resulting in their removal from office. Mr. Fowler said he felt that registrars could render far greater service if their positions were not so subject to political pressures.

He added that the State Director should be placed in the same position if such legislation is undertaken.

4) Director Fowler asked that legislation be enacted giving

the State Board of Registration adequate funds with which to operate. He said, "We need funds; we need additional personnel; we need re-organizing."

Senator Rainach stated at this point that he felt the state-wide program being started at the conference would prove the key to victory in preserving our way of life. "This battle is for our whole way of life and all our domestic institutions. Every bit of information coming from the opposition, however, indicates that it is primarily a fight for the illegally registered Negro vote. We used voter qualification laws before, in 1898, to clean up our registration rolls when we faced this same problem, and we are here today laying plans to use them again for the same purpose."

At this point, Mr. Shaw discussed federal constitutional and statutory provisions affecting the administration of state voter qualification laws and jurisprudence relative thereto. In closing his remarks, Attorney Shaw counseled the registrars to advise the Attorney General, the Joint Legislative Committee, the State Board of Registration, their District Attorneys, Sheriffs, and Presidents of Police Juries of any requests made to them by representatives of the federal "Civil Rights" Commission or other federal agencies. He advised them to require that such requests be placed in writing, that they reply to the written requests only after consulting all legal assistance available to them from the State, and that such replies be placed in writing also, copies being distributed to the same parties to which copies of the request are distributed.

Senator Rainach stated that the federal government has very little legal power in the area of registration, that the power to prescribe voter qualifications, register voters, and hold elections is reserved to the States by the United States Constitution, and that the federal government can intervene legally only to prevent proved discrimination by the State as to persons.

Upon request of Senator Rainach, Mr. Shaw discussed the constitutional and statutory provisions of the State of Louisiana governing voter qualifications and the jurisprudence relative thereto.

Mr. Shaw distributed sets of cards containing 24 constitutional clauses as models for use by the registrars in determining the ability of applicants to interpret the Constitutions of the State of Louisiana and the United States, and discussed proper methods for using the cards.

In reply to a question put to him on the subject, Mr. Shaw advised registrars that applicants for registration may be disqualified as unfit characters if they are guilty of concubinage, or if they have illegitimate offspring.

Mr. Shaw then discussed the penalties attaching to registrars who fail to enforce the voter qualification statutes, as well as penalties accruing against other officials and private individuals who violate Louisiana voter qualification and registration statutes or who swear falsely in connection with the registration of voters.

Brief talks commending the program for enforcement of voter qualification laws and pledging the support of their organizations to the program were delivered by District Attorney Association President Fred L. Jackson, Sheriff Association President W. E. Waggoner, and Louis Knop, Jr., President of the Association of Registrars of Voters.

Senator Rainach announced that plans are underway for similar hearings in the other congressional districts of the State, after which a parish-by-parish drive will begin for the purpose of bringing about a uniform enforcement of Louisiana voter qualification laws and a clearing of the rolls of illegally registered voters.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Ford E. Stinson, Secretary

W. M. Rainach, Chairman

COPY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

PLAINTIFF

VS.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,

DEFENDANTS

Civil Action No. 2548

In the United States District

Court for the Eastern District

of Louisiana

Baton Rouge Division

The deposition of John S. Garrett, witness in the Federal Court Action, taken at the instance of plaintiff in the Federal Court Action, taken in the Post Office Building, Homer, Louisiana, on the 9th day of October, 1962, commencing at 11:00 A. M .

GARRETT

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION**

WHEREAS, the 1960 constitutional amendment to Article VIII, Section 1, of the State Constitution prescribes new, different and additional qualifications for voting in this state; Act 305 of 1960 prescribes a new form for application for registration of voters; and Act 485 of 1960 provides criminal penalties against Registrars of Voters who fail to comply with all state laws relative to the registration of voters; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board of Registration, created by Article VIII, Section 18, of the State Constitution, has the duty, power and authority under L.R.S. 18:191 etc. to supervise parish Registrars of Voters, to prescribe rules and regulations, forms and documents for use in the operation and administration of the Registrars of Voters' offices and to coordinate the procedures for the registration of voters in accordance with law, and uniform procedures and forms should be used by all the Registrars of Voters throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the State Board of Registration that, in order to have uniform application of the state voter qualification laws in all parishes of the state, the attached standard forms, numbered one through eleven for identification herewith, be adopted to carry out the requirements of Section 1 of Article VIII of the State Constitution as amended, and all parish Registrars of Voters in the state are hereby required to use such forms in addition to the new form for registration of voters prescribed by Act 305 of 1960, in the procedure for registration of voters without exception.

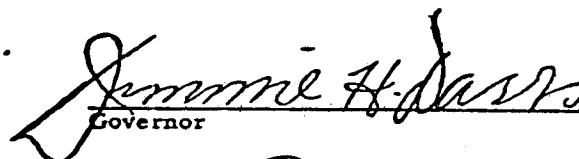
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said forms and instructions to parish Registrars of Voters to comply with the state voter

qualification laws be prepared by this Board and distributed to all Registrars of Voters in Louisiana.

C E R T I F I C A T E

We, the undersigned members of the State Board of Registration, created and constituted by Article VIII, Section 18, of the Constitution of Louisiana, as last amended pursuant to Act 622 of 1960, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a meeting of said Board of Registration held at the State Capitol Building in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on the 10th day of October, 1961, at which the undersigned members of said Board of Registration were present and voting.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at the State Capitol Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on this the 10th day of October, 1961.


Governor


Lieutenant Governor

INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS

STEPS OF PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY REGISTRARS AND DEPUTIES ACCORDING TO LOUISIANA LAW

Have applicant properly identified.

The Registrar or Deputy Registrar, as the case may be, shall interview and give examinations to only one applicant at a time. Applicants should not be in close proximity to each other in order to keep one from interfering with another during registration and examination. No other person shall be present for any purpose except the duly authorized representative of the State Board of Registration. During these examinations, no applicants except those being registered by the Registrar or his Deputy should be permitted in the Registrar's office.

Question applicant as to time in State, Parish and Precinct.

If applicant has been registered in another parish of the State, take up registration card or certificate from previous parish or have applicant sign affidavit to be returned to former parish for cancellation.

Have application (Form No. LR-1) filled out, after placing applicant in proper ward and precinct. In the case of a married woman, Registrar should instruct her to write her first name, maiden name or initial, and married name.

Have applicant read a portion of the preamble of the Constitution.

Have applicant write from dictation given by the Registrar, a portion of the preamble to the Constitution. (See page 2 for instructions).

If application is correct, have applicant answer three of the six questions covered by the Constitutions, as provided on the card selected from forms numbered from one (1) through ten (10). (See page 2 for instructions). All rejected applications should be placed in an alphabetical file so they may be examined in case an appeal proceeding should be filed by a rejected applicant.

Have applicant sign affidavit affirming that he will faithfully and fully abide by all of the laws of the State of Louisiana.

Have applicant sign permanent registration voting certificate in duplicate, in case of permanent registration, or, where four year registration is in effect, the applicant must sign the proper precinct register and the Registrar or Deputy must write out a registration certificate. (In case of permanent registration, the post card notice is filled in later and mailed to the address shown on the registration application.)

ACCORDING TO ARTICLE VIII, SECTION I, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
LOUISIANA

se instructions to the Registrars are to be followed concerning the cards to used for the Constitutional tests for registering applicants:

Registrar should furnish applicant with card (identified as Form No. 11) for the purpose of writing a portion of the preamble to the United States Constitution from dictation by the Registrar.

This card (Form No. 11) is to be used by applicant for his answers, in writing, of three out of six questions contained on the card selected by him from the ten (10) cards furnished by the Registrar (numbered from Form No. 1 through Form No. 10). Each card contains six questions on the constitutions to be answered by the applicant.

When applicant selects one of the ten cards, the Registrar marks the number of the card selected on Form No. 11, which is the card provided for the applicant's answers. Applicant must write his answers on Form No. 11, in the space bearing the same number as the question answered.

If applicant fills out application correctly and passes this test, Form No. 11 is to be attached to Form No. LR-1, together with the affidavit of application affirming that he will faithfully and fully abide by all the laws of the State of Louisiana. All three cards should then be processed in the proper manner.

If applicant fails the test, Form No. 11 together with any other form that he may have filled out, should be attached and filed alphabetically for future reference.

Do not write on this card

Form 1-10

Applicant must correctly answer any three of the following six questions so as to evidence an elemental knowledge of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Louisiana, an attachment thereto, and a simple understanding of the obligations of citizenship.

1. How many Senators are elected from each State? (Sec. 3, Art. V, U. S. Constitution)
2. What historic and lasting document enumerates the powers of Congress?
3. Does the U. S. Constitution permit unreasonable searches and seizures without a warrant? (Amendment IV, U. S. Constitution)
4. How many State Senators elected in your State?
5. Do you know of any provisions of the U. S. Constitution which gives the Judiciary Department the right to make laws?
6. Explain - "No law shall be passed to curtail or restrain the liberty of speech or of the press." (Art. 1, No. 3, Louisiana Constitution)

Applicant's answers must be provided on Form No. 11 furnished by the Registrar for permanent records.

This card must be returned to the Registrar

(Over)

and regulations, forms and documents for use in the operation and administration of the Registrars of Voters' offices and to coordinate the procedures for the registration of voters in accordance with law, and uniform procedures and forms should be used by all the Registrars of Voters throughout the state; therefore:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the State Board of Registration that, in order to have uniformity of the State voter qualification laws in all parishes of the state, the attached standard form be adopted to carry out the requirements of Section 1 of Article VIII of the State Constitution as amended, and all parish Registrars of Voters in the State are hereby required to use this form in addition to the new form for registration prescribed by Act 305 of 1960, in the procedure for registration of voters without exception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said forms and instructions to parish Registrars of Voters to be used with the State voter qualification laws be prepared by this Board and distributed to all Registrars of Voters in Louisiana.

(Over)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

Section 1 of Article VIII of the Louisiana Constitution, as amended by the voters of the State in 1960, provides that the right to vote in Louisiana shall not exist except under the provisions of the State Constitution; and: That, to be an elector, a citizen shall demonstrate his ability to read and write by the reading and writing from dictation given by the Registrar of any portion of the preamble of the Constitution of the U. S. A.,

except that this provision shall not apply to persons who are registered as of November 2, 1960. He shall be of good character and shall understand the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government, and attached to the principles of both Constitutions; and, further, that he shall not have been convicted and sentenced for certain crimes; nor shall he have lived in common law marriage or have an illegitimate child within the prescribed period.

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 1960 Constitutional amendment to Article VIII, Section 1, of the State Constitution prescribes different and additional qualifications for voting in this state; Act 305 of 1960 prescribes a new form for election for registration of voters; and Act 485 of 1960 provides criminal penalties against Registrars of Voters who fail to comply with all State laws relative to the registration of voters; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Registration, created by Article VIII, Section 12, of the State Constitution, the duty, power and authority under L.R.S. 18:191 etc. to supervise parish Registrars of Voters, to prescribe and regulations, forms and documents for use in the operation and administration of the Registrars of Voters' offices and to coordinate the procedures for the registration of voters in accordance with law, and uniform forms and forms should be used by all the Registrars of Voters throughout the state; therefore:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the State Board of Registration that, in order to have uniform election of the State voter qualification laws in all parishes of the state, the attached standard form be adopted carry out the requirements of Section 1 of Article VIII of the State Constitution as amended, and all parish Registrars of Voters in the State are hereby required to use this form in addition to the new form for registration prescribed by Act 305 of 1960, in the procedure for registration of voters without exception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said forms and instructions to parish Registrars of Voters to be used with the State voter qualification laws be prepared by this Board and distributed to all Registrars of Voters in Louisiana.

(Over)

Form Selected
 one I. Write from preamble to U. S. Constitution, at Registrar's dictation: Form No. II

- II. Applicant shall read the above dictation to the Registrar.
- III. Answers or completions of any 3 of the 6 items on card selected. Identify answers with the number of the applicable question; when completion is required, simply write words needed.

ANSWERS

ve qualification test and a registration application form provided for by Act 305 of (orm LR-1), were received by me from the..... Parish Registrar of upon my request to register, and I have signed both for acknowledgment and ation with my application to register.)
196.....

Precinct..... Address.....
 (Over)

WHEREAS, the 1960 Constitutional amendment to Article new, different and additional qualifications for voting in this state; Act 305 of 1960 provides application for registration of voters; and Act 425 of 1960 provides criminal penalties against Registrars of voters who fail to comply with all State laws relative to the registration of voters; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Registration, created by Article VIII, Section 18, of the State Constitution, has the duty, power and authority under L.R.S. 18:191 etc. to supervise parish Registrars of Voters, to prescribe rules and regulations, forms and documents for use in the operation and administration of the Registrars of Voters' offices and to coordinate the procedures for the registration of voters in accordance with law, and uniform procedures and forms should be used by all the Registrars of Voters throughout the state; therefore:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the State Board of Registration that, in order to have uniform application of the State voter qualification laws in all parishes of the state, the attached standard form be adopted to carry out the requirements of Section 1 of Article VIII of the State Constitution as amended, and all parish Registrars of Voters in the State are hereby required to use this form in addition to the new form for registration of voters prescribed by Act 305 of 1960, in the procedure for registration of voters without exception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said forms and instructions to parish Registrars of Voters to comply with the State voter qualification laws be prepared by this Board and distributed to all Registrars of Voters in Louisiana.

(Over)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

Section 1 of Article VIII of the Louisiana Constitution, as amended by the voters of the State in 1960, provides that the right to vote in Louisiana shall not exist except under the provisions of the State Constitution, and: That, to be an elector, a citizen shall demonstrate his ability to read and write by the reading and writing from dictation given by the Registrar of any portion of the preamble of the Constitution of the U. S. A.,

except that this provision shall not apply to persons who are registered as of November 8, 1960. That he shall be of good character and shall understand the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government, and attached to the principles of both Constitutions; and, further, that he shall not have been convicted and sentenced for certain crimes; nor shall he have lived in common law marriage or have had an illegitimate child within the prescribed period.

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 1960 Constitutional amendment to Article VIII, Section 1, of the State Constitution prescribes new, different and additional qualifications for voting in this state; Act 305 of 1960 prescribes a new form for application for registration of voters; and Act 455 of 1960 provides criminal penalties against Registrars of Voters who fail to comply with all State laws relative to the registration of voters; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Registration, created by Article VIII, Section 12, of the State Constitution, has the duty, power and authority under L.R.S. 18:191 etc. to supervise parish Registrars of Voters, to prescribe rules and regulations, forms and documents for use in the operation and administration of the Registrars of Voters' offices and to coordinate the procedures for the registration of voters in accordance with law, and uniform procedures and forms should be used by all the Registrars of Voters throughout the state; therefore:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the State Board of Registration that, in order to have uniform application of the State voter qualification laws in all parishes of the state, the attached standard form be adopted to carry out the requirements of Section 1 of Article VIII of the State Constitution as amended, and all parish Registrars of Voters in the State are hereby required to use this form in addition to the new form for registration of voters prescribed by Act 305 of 1960, in the procedure for registration of voters without exception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said forms and instructions to parish Registrars of Voters to comply with the State voter qualification laws be prepared by this Board and distributed to all Registrars of Voters in Louisiana.

(Over)

P-1

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

SECTION 1 (C), ARTICLE VIII OF THE LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT CITIZENS OF THIS STATE APPLYING TO REGISTER AS ELECTORS, WHO POSSESS THE OTHER QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

"SHALL BE OF GOOD CHARACTER AND SHALL UNDERSTAND THE DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENSHIP UNDER A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT." AND

"SHALL ALSO BE ABLE TO READ ANY CLAUSE IN THIS CONSTITUTION, OR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND GIVE A REASONABLE INTERPRETATION THEREOF."

ARTICLE 1 - SECTION 1

EACH APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION MUST FILL OUT HIS OWN CARD WITHOUT ANY SUGGESTION, MEMORANDUM OR DISCUSSION. CARDS MUST BE COMPLETE, MUST BEAR THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN EACH BLANK. THE REGISTRAR OR HIS DEPUTY ARE MERELY CARRYING OUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAWS OF OUR STATE IN INSISTING THAT THE ABOVE IS COMPLIED BY.

FILED IN EVIDENCE

P-1

August 24, 1962
North Carolina
Reporter

P-1

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

SECTION 1 (C), ARTICLE VIII OF THE LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT CITIZENS OF THIS STATE APPLYING TO REGISTER AS ELECTORS, WHO POSSESS THE OTHER QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

"SHALL BE OF GOOD CHARACTER AND SHALL UNDERSTAND THE DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENSHIP UNDER A REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT." AND

"SHALL ALSO BE ABLE TO READ ANY CLAUSE IN THIS CONSTITUTION, OR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND GIVE A REASONABLE INTERPRETATION THEREOF."

ARTICLE 1 - SECTION 1

ALL GOVERNMENT OF RIGHT, ORIGINATES WITH THE PEOPLE, IS FOUNDED ON THEIR WILL ALONE, AND IS INSTITUTED SOLELY FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE. IT'S ONLY LEGITIMATE END IS TO SECURE JUSTICE TO ALL, PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE INTEREST AND HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE.

ARTICLE 1 - SECTION 3

NO LAW SHALL EVER BE PASSED TO CURTAIL OR RESTRAIN THE LIBERTY OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; ANY PERSON MAY SPEAK, WRITE AND PUBLISH HIS SENTIMENTS ON ALL SUBJECTS, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABUSE OF THAT LIBERTY.

ARTICLE 1 - SECTION 4

EVERY PERSON HAS THE NATURAL RIGHT TO WORSHIP GOD ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF HIS CONSCIENCE. NO LAW SHALL EVER BE PASSED RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, NOR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; NOR SHALL ANY PREFERENCE EVER BE GIVEN TO, NOR ANY DISCRIMINATION MADE AGAINST ANY CHURCH, SECT OR CREED OR RELIGION, OR ANY FORM OF RELIGIOUS FAITH OR WORSHIP.

ARTICLE 3 - SECTION 29

ANY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE WHO HAS A PERSONAL OR PRIVATE INTEREST IN ANY MEASURE OR BILL PROPOSED, OR PENDING BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE, SHALL DISCLOSE THE FACT TO THE HOUSE WHICH HE IS A MEMBER, AND SHALL NOT VOTE THEREON.

ARTICLE 2 - SECTION 1

THE POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS -- LEGISLATURE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL. (LEGISLATURE - HOUSE AND SENATE) (EXECUTIVE - GOVERNOR AND HIS CABINET) (JUDICIAL - THE COURTS)

ARTICLE 3 - SECTION 20

NEITHER HOUSE DURING A SITTING OF THE LEGISLATURE, SHALL WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE OTHER, ADJOURN FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS, NOR, MOVE TO ANY OTHER PLACE THAN THAT IN WHICH IT MAY BE SITTING.

EACH APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION MUST FILL OUT HIS OWN CARD WITHOUT ANY SUGGESTION, MEMORANDUM OR DISCUSSION. CARDS MUST BE COMPLETE, MUST BEAR THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN EACH BLANK. THE REGISTRAR OR HIS DEPUTY ARE MERELY CARRYING OUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAWS OF OUR STATE IN INSISTING THAT THE ABOVE IS COMPLIED BY.

FILED IN EVIDENCE

P-1

August 24, 1967
Monte Alcala
ex Reporter